

REMARKS

A. Claims 18 and 19 were objected to. The Applicant respectfully traverses this objection for the following reason(s).

The Examiner states that "the claim is not structured to specifically associate the **executable** programs instructions with the function being performed, such that there is no doubt that the instructions performing these functions are stored on the computer readable medium."

Note that claims 18 and 19 do not claim an executable program nor functions to be performed. Claims 18 and 19 claim a data structure and the information which is stored according to the data structure.

Accordingly, the objection is untenable and should be withdrawn.

B. Claims 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph based upon a number of deficiencies kindly noted by the Examiner. Accordingly the above amendment is believed to correct for those deficiencies.

C. Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as rendered obvious and unpatentable, over Kinderman et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0204785) in view of Sundaram et al. (U.S. 6,564,341). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reason(s).

The present invention is directed to method or apparatus for supporting error cause of

network management system configured by a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) manager and a SNMP agent.

The method is essentially calls for selecting a standard error cause management interface (TL1), when an error not defined by SNMP error cause (a.k.a.: error code) occurs; numbering an error cause defined by the selected interface; and storing the numbered error cause in a database of the SNMP manager and a database of the SNMP agent, respectively. When a SNMP message cannot be represented by the SNMP standard error cause, a response message based on a different error cause defined by Transaction Language 1 (TL1) is transmitted from the SNMP agent to the SNMP manager.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed towards a method for supporting error cause of network management system configured by a Simple Network Management Protocol manager and a Simple Network Management Protocol agent.

Claim 1 calls for, in part, *storing [[the]] a numbered error cause in a database of the Simple Network Management Protocol manager ~~database~~ and a database of the Simple Network Management Protocol agent, respectively.*

Kinderman utilizes a protocol known as AgentX (RFC-2741) to route SNMP messages between an SNMP manager and Applications. The gist of Kinderman is a desire to use AgentX to place additional information (errors not defined by the SNMP error codes) in an AgentX error status field (STSF). The Agent X error status field (STSF) is a 32-bit field. The lower 5 bits (LB) are reserved for the SNMP-defined error codes (ERR) which are very general in nature and, therefore,

communicate limited information. Additional error information or specific error codes (ERR) are placed in the upper 27 bits (UB). As a result, thousands of very specific error codes (ERR) can be communicated by the AgentX packet to the human operator, thereby allowing the operator to know exactly what is wrong.

Sundaram is directed toward a method and apparatus that enables carrier-grade network fault monitoring in an unreliable network transport environment. An element manager of the system is adapted for formulating and sending notifications through the unreliable network transport environment, each notification having an unique transmitted notification serial number (TxNSN). A network manager is operatively connected for bi-directional communication with the element manager. The network manager includes a detection mechanism responsive to notifications received from the element manager to detect a missing notification serial number (TxNSN) on the basis of the respective TxNSNs of received notifications; and a polling mechanism responsive to detection of a missing notification to send a polling request to the element manager for transmission of a response containing data related to the missing notification.

Kinderman and Sundaram both fail to discuss an SNMP agent. It should be noted here that contrary to the Examiner's interpretation of Sundaram, there is no mention of SNMP agents in the patent. The only "agent" mentioned is EMS agent 6, defined as plurality of first **managers** 6 (e.g. Element Management System [EMS] agents) connected to one or more respective NEs 4 to facilitate direct management and control of each NE 4 within the managed network 2. Each EMS agent 6 has a respective EMS-domain 8 which encompasses a set of NEs 4 managed by that EMS agent 6. Thus the managed network is divided into a plurality of EMS domains 8, each of which encompasses one or more respective NEs. In order to facilitate management of the NEs 4 within its domain, each

EMS-agent 6 maintains a respective EMS Management Information Base (EMS-MIB) 10.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 is deemed to be in error and should be withdrawn.

Additionally, Kinderman fails to teach *storing a numbered error cause in a database of the Simple Network Management Protocol manager*. Sundaram was not applied in this regard.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 is deemed to be in error and should be withdrawn.

Further, claim 1 calls for exchanging a message, having the error cause *defined by Transaction Language 1 (TL1)* between the Simple Network Management Protocol manager and the Simple Network Management Protocol agent, when an error not defined by Simple Network Management Protocol error cause occurs.

Neither Kinderman nor Sundaram discuss *Transaction Language 1 (TL1)*.

We note that the Examiner refers only to Kinderman's col. 1, paragraph [0006] and col. 2, paragraph [0032] in this regard, however, as can clearly be seen in paragraphs [0006] and [0032] there is only discussion of SNMP error codes ERR and SNMP error status values ERRS.

Note that the network management system of the present invention checks and err to determine if the error is an error cause defined by SNMP first, and if the error cause is not defined by SNMP, the system represents/reports the error by using *Transaction Language 1 (TL1)* error cause.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 is deemed to be in error and should be withdrawn.

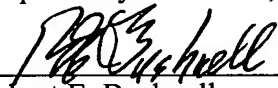
Claims 3-20 and 22 are deemed to be non-obvious for the same reasons as claim 1.

The indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 9, 17 and 19 is appreciated.

The examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the objections and/or rejections and pass the application to issue in view of the above amendments and/or remarks.

Should a Petition for extension of time be required with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is kindly requested to treat this paragraph as such a request and is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of the incurred fee if, **and only if**, a petition for extension of time be required **and** a check of the requisite amount is not enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27,774

1522 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

Folio: P56956
Date: 4/4/07
I.D.: REB/MDP